

Small Businesses Sustain Rural Nebraska

Rural communities survive one business and one job at a time through revolving loan funds, training and technical assistance grants from the Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program (RMAP). RMAP loans to Microenterprise Development Organizations (MDOs) offer micro businesses opportunities for working capital, debt refinancing, equipment, supplies, real estate and other necessary business assets. Grant funds awarded to MDOs support guidance and education for self-employment and micro business development.

The Nebraska Enterprise Fund (NEF) of Oakland, NE received RMAP loan funds in Fiscal Years (FY) 2010, 2014 and 2016 and grant funds in FYs 2010, 2012, 2013, 2015 and 2016. NEF provides services statewide in the rural areas of all 93 Nebraska counties. To-date NEF has made 24 micro business loans, in 18 counties, saving 42 jobs and creating 37 jobs.

- Located in Valley, NE a sole proprietorship transportation business providing postal delivery services on a contract basis, received loan funds to purchase a truck and for working capital. This business has received two loans both paid in full in less than three years. Proving the success of this business and the difference Rural Development's RMAP program can make to a micro business. Technical assistance and loan funds has allowed this business to expand and employ a second individual. The population of Valley, NE is 1,875.
- If you are looking for fancy masonry, countertops or driveways, something with an artistic touch, you will find this in Springfield, NE that is home to a sole proprietorship. A small loan for equipment and supplies, and technical assistance provided by the Nebraska Enterprise Fund (NEF) has given this business the ability to find a level of comfort in operating their everyday business activities. The population of Springfield is 1,529.
- A micro business in Bennington, NE was able to expand their trash services to include a second business of Port-a-Johns. This unique but necessary service business was able to expand their operations and enhance their cash flow with a RMAP loan and technical assistance from NEF. This loan included bank participation. The business employs eleven individuals in a community of 1,458.

Businesses startups and existing businesses maintain and survive with the help of loans and technical assistance uniquely provided by Rural Development's RMAP program.

Obligation Amount:	\$650,000 loan; \$278,175 grant
Date of Obligation:	\$300,000 loan 9/29/10; \$100,000 loan 9/24/14; \$250,000 loan 9/22/16; Grants obligated 9/30/10 \$75,000; 9/30/12 \$10,305; 9/30/13 \$37,840; 2/25/15 \$23,436; 9/28/15 \$65,972; 9/22/16 \$65,622
Congressional District:	Representative Fortenberry, District 1; Senators Fischer, Sasse
Partners:	RMAP requires 25% of loan/total project costs from third party source; 15% grant match from applicant.
Demographics:	Service area is communities in rural Nebraska under 50,000 in population.
Impact:	Training, technical assistance and loans in an amount of \$50,000 or less to microbusinesses with 10 fulltime equivalent employees or less.